



FACT SHEET

State Project No. CSHWY00298

Description

The Midtown Congestion Relief Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) effort is focused on the area surrounding the Seward Highway corridor from the Tudor Road interchange to approximately the 20th Avenue intersection through Midtown Anchorage.

The intersections in this corridor have some of the longest delays and highest crash rates in the state. The Seward Highway also creates challenges for vehicles and non-motorized traffic trying to cross from the residential area on the east to the commercial area on the west.

The PEL will begin with a mobility study, considering all transportation modes to evaluate the inter-related issues surrounding the closely-spaced, signalized intersections between 20th and 36th Avenues with a focus on congestion relief in the Midtown area. Public and agency outreach combined with technical planning and environmental analysis will be used to define a corridor vision and develop a realistic implementation plan.



The outcome of the PEL will be a planning document that identifies a prioritized plan consisting of several distinct projects that work in concert to achieve the shared vision for motorized and non-motorized traffic in Midtown Anchorage. Following completion of the PEL, DOT&PF will begin design and environmental permitting to construct the highest priority project or projects.

Funding

The effort is state-funded but will follow the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) PEL guidelines in anticipation of federal funding for plan implementation.

Timeline

2017 - 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEL study • Public and agency involvement
2019 - 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental/design/right of way • Public and agency involvement
2020/2021+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of project #1 (pending funding availability)
2021 - 2028	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate additional projects recommended in PEL study when funding is available

For more information contact:

Rachel Steer
DOWL Public Involvement
(907) 562-2000

Sean Holland, P.E.
DOT&PF Project Manager
(907) 269-0670

Galen Jones, P.E.
DOT&PF Project Engineer
(907) 269-0541

MCR@dowl.com
www.midtowncongestionrelief.com

Last updated: January 29, 2018

What is a PEL Study?

A PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGE (PEL) STUDY IS:

“ a collaborative and integrated approach to transportation decision-making that consider[s] benefits and impacts of proposed transportation system improvements to the environment, community, and economy during the transportation planning process. PEL uses the information, analysis, or products developed during planning to inform the environmental review process, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). ”

- FHWA PEL Questions and Answers, November 2016. <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/guidance/pel/pelqa2016.pdf>

THE PEL PROCESS:

- Facilitates seamless decision making between planning and project development
- Minimizes duplication of effort
- Promotes environmental stewardship
- Streamlines project delivery

